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**Providing Internet Users with Presence Information About Telephone Lines in the  
Public Switched Telephone Network**

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**Abstract**

Presence state information is made available to an Internet user about a public switched  
15 telephone network (PSTN) subscriber utilizing a first terminal that does not have direct  
Internet communications capability. First messages from the PSTN switch providing  
communication services to the PSTN subscriber are received. The first messages contain call  
event information. The presence state of the PSTN subscriber is determined based on the call  
event information. A second message is transmitted using Internet protocol to the Internet  
20 terminal of the Internet user, the second message containing the presence state information  
about the PSTN subscriber.